

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim 5 has been amended. Claims 1-9 are pending in this application.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response, Applicant has amended claim 5 by changing the order of the signals. Applicant believes that claim 5 now recites a proper order of the signals and is in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1-4 are allowed.

The Examiner stated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action. As set forth above, claim 5 is now in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 5 is now allowable.

With respect to dependent claims 6-9 which are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, Applicant submits that these claims are now allowable as claim 5 is now allowable.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9 are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Twice Amended) A decoder circuit in (a flash memory device,) comprising:

a global row decoder for outputting a global word line signal, wherein said global row decoder comprises:

a first transistor^{T12} for transferring a first (volatage)^{VPPX} to a node according to a first signal;^{X_nCOM}

a second transistor^{T11} for transferring a ground voltage to said node according to said first signal;

a third transistor^{T13} for transferring a second voltage^{VeeX} to a global word line according to potential of said node; and

a fourth transistor^{T14} for transferring said first voltage to said global word line according to potential of said node;

a local row decoder for selecting a word line in response to said global word line signal of said global row decoder, wherein said local row decoder comprises:

a fifth transistor^{T15} for transferring said global word line signal to said word line in response to a [third] ^{S_nCOM} second signal;

a sixth transistor^{T16} for transferring said global word line signal to said word line according to a [fourth] ^{S_nCOMB} third signal; and

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a seventh transistor for transferring a ground voltage to said
word line in response to [a fifth signal] ^{S_uCOM} said second signal.